

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 AF-10 NEA-10
/099 W
-----251504Z 038583 /44

R 250844Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 760
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL ZAGREB
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION NATO

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 3337

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PFOR, YO, OVIP (WALTER MONDALE)
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

1. SUMMARY: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BELGRADE, MAY 20-22, PROVIDED FIRST, AND EXTREMELY USEFUL HIGH LEVEL CONTACT BETWEEN NEW ADMINISTRATION AND YUGOSLAV LEADERSHIP. YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN LAVISHING EXTRAORDINARY AMOUNT OF PRAISE BOTH ON VICE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY AND ON SUCCESS OF VISIT. SOME ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY THE TALKS WILL HAVE TO BE SUSTAINED BY

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SUBSEQUENT CONCRETE US ACTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PROGRAM INCLUDED ALMOST TWO-HOUR MEETING WITH TITO FOLLOWED BY JOINT PRESS APPEARANCE AND TITO-HOSTED LUNCHEON, WORKING BREAKFAST WITH FEDERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT GLIGOROV AND DINNER HOSTED BY VICE PRESIDENT DORONJSKI, WHO ALSO ACTED AS HOST FOR ENTIRE VISIT.

KARDELJ TOOK ACTIVE PART IN MEETING WITH TITO AND PRIMIN DJURANOVIC AND FONMIN MINIC WERE PRESENT FOR BOTH TITO MEETING AND DINNER.

3. TITO, WHO TERMED OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AS GOOD, PREFERRED TO DEVOTE NEARLY ALL OF HIS TIME WITH VICE PRESIDENT TO REVIEW OF WORLD SITUATION WITH EMPHASIS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST, CONSIDERED BY TITO TO BE "HOT SPOTS OF CONFLICT." TITO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VICE PRESIDENT'S ACCOUNT OF HIS MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN PRIMIN VORSTER AND AT VP MONDALE'S REQUEST, TITO OFFERED GOY VIEW OF UPCOMING CSCE FOLLOWUP MEETING AND YUGOSLAV PERFORMANCE IN BASKET III AREAS.

4. SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING, TITO AND VP MONDALE MADE STATEMENTS TO PRESS DURING WHICH VICE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED INTER ALIA THAT KARDELJ HAD ACCEPTED INVITATION TO VISIT US LATER THIS YEAR AND THAT FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL US-YUGOSLAV TALKS, US HAS AGREED TO LICENSE EQUIPMENT FOR KRSKO NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. SEVERAL FOREIGN DIPS WHO WATCHED TV CLIPS OF MEETING WITH PRESS AND NOTICED TITO'S SMILE ON EXITING MEETING WITH VICE PRESIDENT, ASKED EMBOFFS WHAT HAD US GIVEN TO MAKE TITO APPEAR TO SATISFIED.

5. YUGOSLAVS EXTENDED LARGE AMOUNT OF PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE IN UNUSUALLY FAVORABLE VENUE FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S STAY HERE.

6. YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN EFFUSIVE IN PRAISE OF
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SUCCESS OF VISIT AND OF VICE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY. FSFA ASST SECY BERNARDIC TOLD CHARGE THAT VISIT "BY THAT WONDERFUL MAN CAME AT A VERY GOOD TIME AND WITH FULL SUCCESS." STATED MONDALE LEFT AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION IN BELGRADE. (AND NORTH AMERICAN DESK DEPUTY KOSTIC TOLD US THAT EVEN TITO HAD SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED.) BERNARDIC STATED THAT MONDALE WAS NOT AN "ORDINARY VICE PRESIDENT BUT A POLITICIAN OF HIGH CALIBER."

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7. BERNARDIC SAID "DOOR IS NOW OPEN TO COOPERATION IN ALL FIELDS. WE KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER. WE ARE NOW MOBILIZING OURSELVES TO MAKE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE THIS WONDERFUL SPIRIT AND MAKE AN ADEQUATE PROGRAM FOR THE FUTURE". ONLY DISCORD COULD COME, HE SAID, "FROM OUR PRESS OR YOUR PRESS OR THROUGH DECLARATIONS BY PEOPLE WE CANNOT CONTROL" BUT ALL WOULD BE AWARE, HE SAID, THIS WOULD NOT BE USG OR GOY POLICY.

8. CHARGE CONFIRMED TO BERNARDIC THAT MEMBERS OF PARTY ENJOYED THE VISIT AND BELIEVED IT ACHIEVED ITS
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PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES -- TO ESTABLISH CONTACT AT A HIGH LEVEL AND TO EXPRESS US SUPPORT FOR YUGOSLAVIA'S INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND UNITY.

9. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, TITO'S FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR, ANDELJKO BLAZVIC, TOLD CHARGE THAT TITO IS VERY MUCH INCLINED TO BELIEVE VICE PRESIDENT. TITO BELIEVES THERE HAS BEEN A SHIFT OF US POLICY TOWARDS SUPPORT ON NON-ALIGNED. ACCORDING TO BLAZEVIC, FONMIN MINIC HOWEVER IS SKEPTICAL. SAYS NOTHING HAS BEEN

CHANGED BUT WORDS AND THAT "KISSINGER'S POLICY OF TRYING TO SPLIT THE NON-ALIGNED IS STILL OPERATIVE". BLAZEVIC CAUTIONED THAT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR ADMINISTRATION'S WORDS TO BE FOLLOWED BY ACTIONS, THAT US CONCRETELY DEMONSTRATE IT IS PREPARED TO GIVE UP ITS ATTEMPT TO "EXPLOIT DIFFERENCES AMONG NON-ALIGNED."

10. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT BLAZEVIC WAS NOT ENTIRELY ACCURATE IN DESCRIPTION OF KISSINGER'S POLICIES, BUT INSOFAR AS NEW ADMINISTRATION IS CONCERNED, THE VICE PRESIDENT IS ENTIRELY SINCERE. HE NOTED THAT THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN VERY SHARP SHIFT IN US POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THAT MONDALE WAS SINCERE IN STATING THAT THE US WILL FOLLOW A HANDS-OFF POLICY. BUT SUCCESS OF NEW POLICY WILL DEPEND ON SOVIET/CUBAN ACTIONS AND ON WHETHER NON-ALIGNED THEMSELVES ARE PREPARED TO ACT IN EVEN-HANDED FASHION. IN THIS RESPECT, YUGOSLAVIA'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IS KEY. NEW ADMINISTRATION RESPECTS NAM AND REGARDS IT AS IMPORTANT. QUESTION IS WHAT NA RESPONSE WILL BE.

11. OTHER FSFA OFFICIALS HAVE DESCRIBED VISIT TO US AND TO OTHER DIPLOMATICS IN ESSENTIALLY SAME GLOWING TERMS AS BERNARDIC. INDIAN AMB, HOWEVER, NOTED THAT HE WAS (ALSO) TOLD CONCRETE POLICY ACTIONS MUST SUCCEED THE WORDS EXPRESSED DURING THE VISIT.

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12. COMMENT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT HAS BEEN CAPSTONE TO SERIES OF DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE PLACED US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS IN ANOTHER OF THEIR CYCLICAL ERAS OF GOOD FEELING. WHAT BLAZEVIC AND OTHERS ARE SAYING IS THAT THIS STATE CAN CONTINUE AS LONG AS FUTURE US POLICY ACTIONS IN AREAS OF THEIR DIRECT CONCERN MEET GOY SATISFACTION. IN THIS WE EXPECT THEY MEAN A FAVORABLE OUTCOME TO THE NEXT ROUND OF KRŠKO TALKS, POSITIVE MOVEMENT IN THE AREA OF MILITARY SALES, AND CONTINUED US ACTIVITY TOWARD SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST. FOR OUR PART, WE INTEND REMINDING THE YUGOSLAVS AS NECESSARY THAT THEY MUST PLAY SUPPORTIVE ROLES WHERE THEY ARE ABLE (INSTEAD OF GRAND-STANDING) IN WORKING FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF GOALS WE BOTH MAY BE SEEKING.

13. AS A SIDEBAR TO VISIT AND CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS, US ARMED FORCES DAY RECEPTION AT DATT'S HOME MAY 22 DREW UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF YUGOSLAV MILITARY OFFICERS HEADED BY COS POTOČAR AND CHIEF OF GROUND FORCES PEKIC.

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Message Attributes

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